



37th BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONFERENCE
July 25 - 29, 2004
Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York City

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GREEK EDUCATION

Presiding Hierarchy: **His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta**
Committee Chairman: Dr. Steven Gounardes
Resource Person: Mrs. Maria Makedon, Director
Archdiocesan District Office of Greek Education
Secretary: Mr. Christos Vrettos

The Greek Education Committee met on Monday, July 26, 2004, from 2:00 to 4:15 p.m. The chairman of the Greek Education Committee was not able to attend this meeting, due to death in the family. In the absence of the chairman, Dr. John Siolas was appointed chairman for the meeting.

The meeting started with a prayer delivered by George Stavropoulos. Afterwards, Dr. Siolas read the Report of the Greek Education Department and Mrs. Makedon further discussed the major points of the report. His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios joined the discussion later.

An open discussion followed, during which participants emphasized the importance of teaching the Greek language and the Greek cultural heritage to younger generations and what this means for the future Greek Orthodox Church in America. Participants referred to the particular problems that some communities are facing in their efforts to offer a sound Greek studies program. They indicated the following as matters that need to be addressed by the Archdiocese:

- The lack of appropriate materials for the teaching of the Greek language to the American-born student;
- The lack of competent teachers to teach the Modern Greek language as a second/foreign language as well as the Hellenic culture that permeates our Greek Orthodox faith;
- The low salaries of teachers and the non-existent health and pension benefits;

- The need to establish a better line of communication between the parishes and the Archdiocese that will facilitate the parishes, which would like to open up a parochial school.

In light of the above, the Committee on Greek Education recommends that the 37th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress adopt the following:

1. Each Metropolis to appoint a Committee on Greek Education comprised from educators and other community representatives with the responsibility to study the particular problems of the parochial schools in their jurisdiction and report to the local hierarch as well as to the Archdiocese.
2. The Archdiocesan Department of Greek Education, in collaboration with the Metropolises, to organize seminars and workshops for the in-service training of teachers serving throughout the country.
3. The Archdiocesan Department of Greek Education update its web page to providing useful information on resources and materials on the teaching of Modern Greek and be user friendly to the student, teacher, and all those who want to learn and/or edify on the Hellenic culture.

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Following are the names of the attendees of the Greek Education Committee meeting:

Prepared by: Maria Makedon, Archdiocesan Department of Education

July 28, 2004